

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-10 NSC-07 NSCE-00 PM-03 L-02

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 MC-02 ACDA-10 OMB-01

SAM-01 DRC-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 NEAE-00 /070 W

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O 031625Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3053

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T RABAT 4201

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM MASS US MO SP SS

SUBJECT: TANK DELIVERIES TO MOROCCO

REF: MADRID 5493

1. PENDING AMBASSADOR NEUMANN'S RETURN SEPT 5, WE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE SOME PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS RE SPANISH REQUEST REPORTED REFTEL THAT US (A) DELAY DELIVERY OF TANKS OR (B) GIVE ASSURANCES TO SPAIN THAT MOROCCANS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO USE TANKS IN SAHARA.

2. ON POINT A., ALTHOUGH CONTRACT REQUIRES DELIVERY OF TANKS IN SEPTEMBER, PRESENT SCHEDULE IS TO TURN THEM OVER TO U.S. SHIPPER ON SEPT 25. IN VIEW OF PROCESSING TIME IN U.S., OCEAN TRANSPORTATION, AND DE-PROCESSING REQUIRED AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL IN MOROCCO, OUR BEST ESTIMATE IS THAT THEY WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR BEGINNING OF TRAINING NO EARLIER THAN OCT 15-20. MOROCCANS HAVE ALREADY CONTRACTED FOR MOBILE TRAINING TEAM TO CONDUCT TANK TRAINING IN COUNTRY WHICH TO BE ABOUT TEN WEEKS. IN SUM, IT WILL PROBABLY BE MATTER OF SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE TANKS ARE READY TO BE EMPLOYED TACTICALLY BY MOROCCANS.

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3. ON POINT B., DEPT MAY WISH RECALL THAT AT OUTSET OF DISCUSSION OF FAR MODERNIZAION PROGRAM KING STATED THAT HE WILLING TO GIVE HIS PERSONAL WORD THAT THESE WEAPONS WOULD NOT BE USED AGAINST FRIENDS OF U.S. (SEE RABAT 5373 OF DEC 12, 1973, NOTAL). ALTHOUGH THIS STATEMENT ANTEDATES CURRENT GOM CONCERN OVER SAHARA, IT STANDS ON RECORD AND COULD PRESUMABLY BE PLAYED BACK TO GOS IF DEPT WISHES.

4. IN PRINCIPLE, WE SHALL OBVIOUSLY CONTINUE TO FACE DILEMNA AS LONG AS TWO GOOD FRIENDS OF U.S. CONDUCT THEIR BILATERAL RELATIONS IN A WAY RAISING POSSIBILITY OF ARMED CONFRONTATION. FROM HERE IT APPEARS THAT ACTIVE U.S. DIPLOMACY DESIGNED TO GET SPAIN AND MOROCCO TO SIT DOWN AND NEGOTIATE BILATERAL SOLUTION PROVIDES BEST WAY TO GET US OFF HOOK.
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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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